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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 21 May 1952

SUBJECT V M Molotov Iron Works, Trinec, Moravia

NO. OF PAGES 1

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. A conversation with several shock workers from the V M Molotov Iron Works in Trinec (Trinecke Zelezarny V. M. Molotova) was part of a radio "newsreel" broadcast 16 Mar 52 on Radio Prague. The program contained many propaganda blasts and also included the following information. Within a very short time (presumably in March), a new blast furnace (Vysoka pec) was to be put into operation. One of the workers mentioned that this furnace would be the second one installed since the beginning of the year. An engineer added that the first one was put into operation in the new Gottwald Works in Kuncice-Ostrava. They went on to say that there were six such furnaces in operation in Trinec at the time of the broadcast and that the last one was the largest in Czechoslovakia. The furnace was 75 m high, completely armored (celopancerova) and dry-cooled (the cooling was done by means of the most modern Soviet methods, ie, inside the furnace itself). It was the first furnace of this type in Central Europe. It was further stated that it would be possible to achieve work goals and fulfill the plan, "thanks to the generous and heroic help of comrades from the German Democratic Republic".

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2. [redacted] this broadcast is the first time that the presence of German technicians in the CSR has been mentioned publicly. It might indicate that the economic cooperation between the GDR and Czechoslovakia consists not only of an exchange of goods, but technical advice and assistance as well.
3. In 1948 the iron works in Trinec were second in size in Czechoslovakia only to the iron works in Kladno. The entire complex of the Trinec Iron Works is located in Trinec, adjacent to the Bohumin-Zilina railway, and is called the "Czechoslovak Magistrale".

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